

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more such institutions in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have organised any survey during the last three years or propose to organise any survey regarding performance of these institutions and the ex-servicemen getting suitable jobs after training;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (f). Ministry of Defence is not directly running any vocational training school/institute for disabled ex-Servicemen. However, there is one autonomous institution called 'Queen Mary's Technical Institute' (QMTI) at Pune which has been recognised by the Government for providing vocational training to disabled ex-Servicemen. In addition, blind ex-Servicemen are sponsored for training at another institution called National Institute for Visually Handicapped at Dehra Dun. As per information available with the Directorate General Resettlement, the number of disabled ex-Servicemen/Servicemen trained at the two institutions during the past three years was 45 (upto 1991-92) and 7 (upto 1990-91) respectively.

2. There is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Defence to open such vocational training centres.
3. Government have not organised any survey during the last three years regarding the performance of these institutions or the number of ex-Servicemen

getting suitable jobs after training at these institutes. While there is no proposal under the consideration of the government to organise any such survey, the position of placement of disabled ex-Servicemen/Servicemen in general is reviewed from time to time.

[Translation]

Visit of Singapore Delegation

6069. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade delegation of Singapore is likely to visit India;

(b) if so, when and the issues proposed to be discussed with this delegation; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take for increasing trade with Singapore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, a Business Delegation from Singapore accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister during his visit to India from march 22-27, 1992. This delegation held discussions with Confederation of Indian Industry for increased trade cooperation.

(c) Steps taken to increase trade with Singapore include bilateral discussions at government level, exchange of visits, delegations and participation in exhibition/trade fairs. Recently, a high level delegation of India Merchants Chamber had visited Singapore from 2-5 April, 1992 and they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Singapore-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They also signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Singapore-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI). These agreement:

would help in fostering increased trade and economic ties between the two countries.

[English]

Export of Handloom Products and Handicrafts of Rajasthan

6970. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom products and handicrafts made in Rajasthan have great demand in the international market;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of these items;

(c) the details of the agencies which are involved in the export of these items; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage the rural artisans in Rajasthan to increase the production of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Handicrafted folklore textile products and other handicraft products of Rajasthan have good markets specially in Europe, U.S.A. and Canada.

(b) to (d). A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

(b) to (d). Government is operating a number of schemes in the areas of training, marketing, exhibition, design and technological development, supply of raw material etc., for the development of Indian handicrafts. Two Marketing and Service Extension Centres are functioning at Jaipur and Jodhpur. Besides, 13 Carpet Weaving training Centres and 2 Handspinning Textile Centres are functioning in different parts of Rajasthan.

2. Government is running various schemes for the promotion and development of handloom sector and has been providing assistance to the handloom weavers both in the Co-operative and outside the Co-operative fold. Some of the major programmes in operation are as follows:

- (i) Yarn supply through National Handloom Development Corporation
- (ii) Janatha Cloth Scheme
- (iii) Market Development Assistance Scheme
- (iv) Workshop cum-Housing Scheme
- (v) Thrift Fund Scheme
- (vi) Share capital assistance to State Handloom Development Corporations.
- (vii) Publicity and Exhibition.
- (viii) Research and Development/Market Survey and Studies.
- (ix) Hill Area/Desert Area Woollen Handloom Development Export Production Projects.
- (x) Pre-loom/Post-Loom Processing Facilities.
- (xi) Loan Assistance to Handloom Weavers for becoming members of the primary weavers co-operative societies.

The Weavers' Service Centre based in Jaipur is documenting, preserving and developing the traditional handloom arts of the State by providing design input and technical supervision.